

Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County Department of
Animal Care & Control

December 2007

Volume 3, Issue 12

A Very Merry "Cat-mas"

Animal Care & Control is very happy to report that **45 cats and kittens** found new homes just in time for the holidays, thanks to our "12 Days of Cat-mas" promotion!

During the "12 Days of Cat-mas," December 10-22, the spay/neuter fee was waived for all cats and kittens adopted. This resulted in more than **double** the number of cat adoptions versus the same time period last year!

Adopters came from far and wide to find their purr-fect pet. The program was even featured on the FOX 5 evening news on Monday, December 10! If you missed the news, you can visit www.fox5dc.com and search for "cat-mas" to see the story.

Thank you to everyone who chose to celebrate "Cat-mas" by adopting from the Animal Shelter during this promotion. See below for some of our lucky kitties who just enjoyed their first holiday in their brand new homes!



Pedro, age 10 months
Adopted December 20



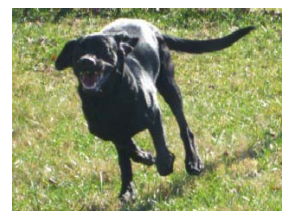
Tabby, age 3
Adopted December 19



Smokey, age 2
Adopted December 12

Don't Forget the Dogs!

There are many wonderful canine companions just waiting for their chance at a new home. Check them out online at www.loudoun.gov/animals!



New Year's Resolutions

Are you making a New Year's resolution in 2008? Many people are, and some of the most popular resolutions include losing weight, getting fit, reducing stress, and spending time volunteering to help others.

If those are some of your goals for the New Year, then you are in luck! The Loudoun County Animal Shelter can help you keep those resolutions.

How? If you're interested in volunteering, we have opportunities in many areas. We're always looking for cat cuddlers, small animal friends, web photographers, and more. And if you're looking to get in shape, you can volunteer as a dog walker! Our dogs will keep you in shape,

and we guarantee you'll have more fun than you would at the gym!

Dogs are fantastic fitness partners—having a four legged friend at your side helps to motivate you to get out for longer walks and maybe even play a game of Frisbee or fetch!

Perhaps you're looking to reduce your stress in 2008. Have you considered adopting a pet? Studies show that the simple act of petting a dog or cat can reduce blood pressure and relieve stress. Long walks with your dog, or a nice relaxing nap with your cat, can keep you happy and stress free in the new year (and for years to come).

Let us help you keep your New Year's

resolutions—visit www.loudoun.gov/animals for more information on volunteering or to find your perfect pet!



Need a lesson in relaxation? Take a cue from a cat and have a nap!

Cold Weather Pet Care

Follow our Top 10 tips to keep your pets warm and happy this winter!

1. Keep cats inside. Outdoor cats are vulnerable to frostbite, hypothermia, and can freeze to death.
2. Never let your dog off its leash in the winter. Dogs can lose their scent in ice and snow and become easily lost. As at any time of year, make sure your dog has proper ID at all times in case he does become lost.
3. Don't leave your pet in the car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator, holding in cold air. Your pet can freeze to death.
4. During cold weather, cats and small animals sometimes take refuge in car

engines for warmth. Always bang on the hood of the car before you start the engine to give the animal a chance to escape.

5. Be sure to wipe your dogs' paws and stomach after coming inside from ice or snow. Your dog can ingest salt, antifreeze, or other agents by licking his paws clean. Your dog's paw pads can also become irritated from encrusted snow or ice.
6. Never shave your pet down to the skin in cold weather, as a longer coat is warmer. Be sure your pet is completely dry before going outside after a bath.
7. Does your pet spend a lot of time playing outside in winter? Increase his food intake to help keep him energetic and warm.

8. Antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to clean any spills completely, and store antifreeze in a place your pets can't reach. Consider using products with the less toxic ingredient propylene glycol.

9. Consider a coat or sweater for your pet if he is small, young, elderly, or short haired. Be sure it covers from the neck to the base of the tail as well as under the belly.

10. Be sure your pet has a warm place to sleep, off the floor, away from drafts, and with cozy blankets or pillows to cuddle in.



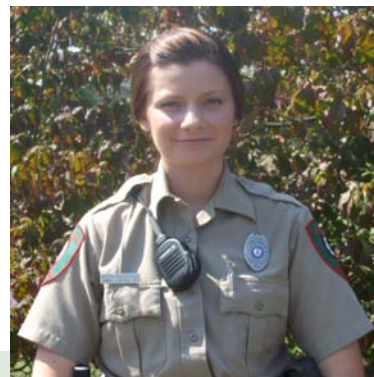
Employee of the Month

Megan McGarrigle is December's Employee of the Month!

Megan has been an Animal Control Officer since Spring 2007. In her time with the Department, Megan has demonstrated excellent and unselfish work. Her patience and dedication in working towards the best interests of both the animals and citizens involved in her cases is outstanding. Recently, she worked with a family to create a better living situation for their dog. She handled

the case with compassion and respect. Her positive attitude and willingness to help others with their work fosters a team spirit within her division. Her efforts have a direct impact on the entire Department and demonstrate her dedication and commitment to both the animals and citizens of the County.

Thanks Megan for all you do!



Congratulations Megan!

What We're Up To...

Holiday Schedule

The Animal Shelter will be **closed** Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1 for the New Year's Holiday. Normal hours will resume on Wednesday, January 2.

Pet Pantry Success!

Thank you to everyone who donated supplies or time to help with the Holiday Pet Pantry. Hundreds of pets received food, toys, and treats for the holidays thanks to generous donations from our citizens and

businesses. Over 1,800 families were registered to shop in the Holiday Coalition store and were able to get goodies for their pets as well.

A special thank you goes to Animal Care & Control's amazing volunteer team, who helped not only staff the Pet Pantry, but also spent a Saturday preparing gift bags and sorting donations. The Pet Pantry would not be possible without the support of our volunteers!



Volunteers help sort and package donations for the Pet Pantry.